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COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

First session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 25th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Thursday, 17 October 1991, at 11 a.m.

Chairman: Mrs. BADRAN

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Other matters (continued)

Consideration and adoption of the draft interim report

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The meeting was called to order at 11.15 a.m.

OTHER MATTERS (agenda item 11) (continued)

1. The CHAIRMAN recalled that, during its earlier discussion of the item, the Committee had agreed to appoint individual members to follow the work of the other treaty bodies and to brief the Committee thereon. She called for volunteers.

2. Mrs. KLEIN (Representative of the Secretary-General) said that the secretariat would make available to the member chosen to follow the work of a given Committee the annual report of that body, the summary records and the decisions adopted by it.

3. Mr. KOLOSOV said that, in cases where compatriots of a member of the Committee were serving on other human rights treaty bodies, that member should be appointed to follow the work of the body in question. A Committee member could more easily establish close and frequent contact with a counterpart on another treaty body who was a national of his or her own country.

4. Mrs. SANTOS PAIS said there were factors other than nationality that should be taken into account in the assignment of Committee members to follow the proceedings of other treaty bodies. Familiarity with economic matters, for example, might be useful for keeping abreast of the work done by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. She would prefer a large degree of flexibility to be exercised in choosing Committee members for specific assignments.

5. Mr. HAMMARBERG said that it was also important to divide the work equitably among the members of the Committee and to provide for a change in assignments from one session to the next. He suggested that the Rapporteur should be asked to follow the broad trends in the work of all the human rights treaty bodies.

6. The CHAIRMAN said that, if she heard no objection, she would take it that the Committee wished to appoint the following members to ensure liaison with other treaty bodies: Miss Mason, Human Rights Committee; Mr. Hammarberg, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Mr. Kolosov, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; Mrs. Belembaogo, Committee against Torture; and Mrs. Eufemio, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Mrs. Santos Pais, Rapporteur, would be responsible for monitoring trends in the work of all those Committees.

7. It was so decided.

The meeting was suspended at 11.40 a.m. and resumed at 12.20 p.m.

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT INTERIM REPORT

8. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the draft interim report on the work of its first session.

Title page

9. Mr. KOLOSOV suggested that the paragraph on the title page should be incorporated in a footnote.

10. It was so decided.

11. The title page, as amended, was adopted.

Table of contents

12. Mr. KOLOSOV, referring to the list of annexes, proposed that a fourth should be added, to contain the Committee's provisional rules of procedure. Those rules dealt with a number of important issues, such as the participation of non-governmental organizations and other bodies, of which States parties and other potential readers of the draft interim report needed to be informed.

13. Mrs. SANTOS PAIS (Rapporteur) said that, in considering what information to include as annexes, she had given priority to material of interest to States parties. In addition, the secretariat had informed her that the inclusion of the rules of procedure would make the report longer than the agreed 20 pages.

14. Replying to a question by Miss MASON, she said that the conclusions and recommendations had been presented as chapter I in order to draw attention to the most important issues discussed by the Committee. Chapters II and III were more procedural in nature and reflected the discussions that had taken place in the Committee. She also noted that the word "Provisional" should be added before the words "rules of procedure" in the title of chapter III.A. and deleted from the title of annex III.

15. It was so decided.

16. The table of contents, as amended, was adopted.

CHAPTER I. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Recommendation 1 concerning sessions of the Committee or its subsidiary bodies

17. Mr. KOLOSOV proposed that, in the second line of paragraph 1 of the recommendation, the words "per year" should be replaced by the word "annually".

18. It was so decided.

19. Recommendation 1, as amended, was adopted.

Recommendation 2 concerning sources of information

20. Recommendation 2 was adopted.

Recommendation 3 concerning relations with other United Nations organs and treaty bodies

21. Mr. KOLOSOV said that he had prepared draft preliminary comments which the Committee could submit to the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights and which were analogous to those adopted by the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. He proposed that those comments should be adopted as recommendation 5 and that, consequently, paragraph 5 of recommendation 3 should be deleted.

22. After a discussion in which Mr. KOLOSOV, Mrs. SANTOS PAIS, Mrs. BELEMBAOGO and Mrs. KLEIN (Representative of the Secretary-General) took part, the CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should adopt recommendation 3 with the exception of paragraph 5, pending a decision on Mr. Kolosov's proposal.

23. It was so decided.

Recommendation 4 concerning public information activities

24. Recommendation 4 was adopted.

25. Chapter I, as a whole, as amended, was adopted.

CHAPTER II. ORGANIZATIONAL AND OTHER MATTERS

26. Chapter II was adopted.

CHAPTER III. OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

A. Rules of procedure

27. Mrs. SANTOS PAIS (Rapporteur) said that the title of Chapter III.A should be amended to read: "A. Provisional rules of procedure".

28. It was so decided.

Paragraph 5

29. Mr. KOLOSOV proposed that, in the last sentence, which contained a direct quotation from the rules of procedure, the words "each year" should be replaced by the word "annually".

30. It was so decided.

31. Paragraph 5, as amended, was adopted.

Paragraphs 6 and 7

32. Paragraphs 6 and 7 were adopted.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.